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DUCK HUNTERS ALLOWED
30-DAY OPEN SEASON

President Approves New Regulations With Drastic
Restrictions; States Are Divided into
Three Zones for Hunting

Duck hunters will have 30 days of hunting this fall under restrictions equally as rigid and drastic as those in force last season. Last year also the hunters were allowed only 30 days.

The new Migratory Bird Treaty Act regulations announced today (August 14) by the U. S. Department of Agriculture were recommended by the Biological Survey, adopted by Secretary Wallace, and approved in a proclamation by President Roosevelt.

"These new regulations," says the Biological Survey, "continue stringent restrictions on the hunting of waterfowl in order to cut down the annual kill. The restrictions put into force last year were intended to bring about a reduction in the kill and they accomplished that purpose."

Regulations for this season are summarized by the Survey as follows:

Three zones--northern, intermediate and southern--have been approved for waterfowl hunting. Last year there were two zones, the northern and southern.

In the northern zone the season this year opens October 1st and closes November 8, in the intermediate zone the season is November 1 to 30, and in the southern zone, November 26 to December 25.

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Three important species of waterfowl, the Atlantic brant and redhead and canvasback ducks have been placed on the list of fully protected species this season. These three have not shown the recovery noted in other species.

Last year's regulations not permitting baiting or the use of live decoys and sink boxes or batteries have been strengthened and continued.

Waterfowl and coot may be hunted in season from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. standard time.

The 3-shell limit on repeating shotguns in effect last year is continued this season. Hunters may use shotguns not larger than No.10 gauge.

The 100-foot regulation for the location of blinds has been eliminated.

Hunting Restricted in Canada

Drastic restrictions for waterfowl hunting this season in the Provinces have been adopted by Canadian authorities. The Canadian restrictions to a very large degree are commensurate with those for the United States. The open season on waterfowl in Canada has been reduced to two months with a daily bag limit of 12 ducks and 5 geese. Use of live decoys and baiting are also prohibited, and in certain Provinces the use of "sneak" boats will not be allowed.

"Only by restricting the kill," says the Biological Survey, "will it be possible to send more birds back to the newly created breeding grounds in this country and to the Canadian areas where breeding birds are still deficient. In addition to the reduction in the legal kill last year, the illegal kill by duck bootleggers and post-season violators has been substantially curtailed as a result of the activities of U. S. Game Management Agents, Federal under-cover men, and State game officials, aided by stiff penalties imposed upon the violators by Federal and State courts. These gains, however, are not great enough to justify any general let-up in the restrictions."

Ducks in Drought Area Suffer Setback

"This year's drought," continues the Survey, "has seriously affected the duck crop in the United States and emphasizes the need of continuing restrictions on waterfowl hunting. Heavy losses from the drought have also been reported in the extreme southern portions of the Canadian Prairie Provinces.

"Fortunately, the Canadian breeding grounds that produce the most ducks are farther north and beyond the drought area. After the birds traveled north to their nesting grounds last spring the Survey sent 5 field parties into Canada to check up on the crop of ducklings. Cooperation of the Dominion and Provincial game authorities greatly aided these parties in their study of the waterfowl situation in Canada.

"Reports from these parties indicate that waterfowl conditions on most of the important Canadian breeding grounds are at least as good as they were last year and that in many sections there is a definite increase in some species.

"Nevertheless, if we are to speed up the complete recovery of our continental waterfowl supply it is necessary to curtail shooting privileges. The 1936 regulations were formulated with that objective in mind."

Redheads and Canvasbacks in Danger

Redheads and canvasbacks, which have been placed on the list of fully protected species, have been overshot in the past, and much of their limited breeding range has been seriously affected by previous droughts as well as by the present drought and other unfavorable conditions. Atlantic brant, another species on the protected list this season, has been seriously affected by the continued shortage of their principal food, the eelgrass.

"Last year's regulations not permitting baiting or the use of live decoys and sink-boxes or batteries were effective in saving ducks," says the Biological Survey. "Our migratory waterfowl with some exceptions are unquestionably slowly recovering the ground they have been steadily losing the last 10 or 15 years, and from all indications the waterfowl situation warrants a short but sharply restricted season.

Season Opens October 10

The 30-day shooting season for ducks, geese, Wilson's snipe (jacksnipe), and coot will open in the following northern States October 10 and close November 8; Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wisconsin.

In the intermediate zone the season on these birds opens November 1 and closes November 30. States in this zone are: Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, including Long Island, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

In the southern zone the season opens November 26 and closes December 25. States in this zone are: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

In Alaska north of the Alaska Range and the Ahklun Mountains the season will open September 1 and close on September 30; south of these mountains and west of the 141st meridian and east of False Pass at the tip of the Alaska Peninsula the open season is September 16 to October 15; in southeastern Alaska from the 141st meridian to Dixon's Entrance, October 1 to October 30; and islands of Unimak, Unalaska, Akutan, and Akun west of Unimak Pass in the Aleutian Island group, November 1 to November 30.

No open season is allowed on snow geese and brant in Florida and in States north thereof that border on the Atlantic coast, and on Ross's geese, wood ducks, ruddy ducks, canvasback ducks, redhead ducks, bufflehead ducks, and swans.

Bag and Possession Limits

Regulations on bag and possession limits, continued from last season, place the daily bag limit on ducks at 10 in the aggregate of all kinds and make the possession limit conform to the daily bag.

Bag and possession limits on geese and brant of the kinds permitted to be killed remain at 4 in the aggregate of all kinds.

The bag and possession limits on other species affected by the regulations are as follows: rails and gallinules (except sora and coot), 15 in the aggregate of all kinds; sora, 25; coot, 15; snipe, 15; woodcock, 4; doves 20; and band-tailed pigeons, 10.

Season Shortened on Mourning Doves

In a number of States the opening date for shooting mourning doves has been set for September 1 by the regulations, but the season in general has been shortened one month. Seasons prescribed for the States are as follows:

September 1 to November 15, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, Nevada, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah, and Virginia.

September 15 to November 30, Delaware.

September 1 to September 30 and November 15 to December 31, Maryland.

October 1 to November 15, counties of Dade, Broward, and Monroe in Florida; the rest of Florida and Louisiana, November 20 to January 31.

September 1 to September 30 and December 20 to January 31, North Carolina.

September 1 to September 30 and December 20 to January 31, Alabama in the counties of Pickens, Tuscaloosa, Jefferson, Shelby, Talladega, Clay, Randolph, and all counties north thereof; Georgia, in the counties of Troup, Meriwether, Pike, Lamar, Monroe, Jones, Baldwin, Washington, Jefferson, Burke, and all counties north thereof; Mississippi, in the counties of Washington, Humphreys, Holmes, Attala, Winston, Noxubee, and all counties north thereof; and South Carolina in the counties of Edgefield, Saluda, Newberry, Fairfield, Lancaster, Chesterfield, and all counties north thereof. In the remaining territory of these States the season is from November 20 to January 31.

September 1 to October 31 in the northern zone of Texas except the counties of Bastrop, Brazos, Burleson, Fayette, Grimes, Lee, Limestone, Milam, Montgomery, Robertson, San Jacinto, Smith, Washington, and Wood. December 1 to January 16 in the south zone including the counties excepted in the northern zone.

The woodcock season remains the same as in 1935, except in Wisconsin and New York. In Wisconsin the season has been set for October 17 to October 31, while the season in New York, north of the New York Central Railroad from Buffalo to Albany and the Boston and Albany railroad from Albany to the Massachusetts State line, is during October, and south thereof, including Long Island, October 15 to November 14.

On rails and gallinules (except coot) the season as formerly will be September 1 to November 30, with the following exceptions: Wisconsin, October 10 to November 8; New York, including Long Island, November 1 to November 30; Alabama, November 20 to January 31; Connecticut, September 15 to November 30; Massachusetts and Washington, October 1 to November 30; Louisiana, November 1 to January 31.

No changes were made in the regulations on band-tailed pigeons.

Snipe, rails, and gallinules (other than coot), woodcock, mourning doves, and band-tailed pigeons may be hunted in season from 7 a.m. standard time to sunset.

Possession of a Federal duck stamp is required by law of every migratory-waterfowl hunter more than 16 years of age. The stamps are on sale at post offices.

Copies of the new regulations, as soon as they are available, may be obtained from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

* B. P. I. *